

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 /068 W

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R 051857Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6453

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03182

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY (PS)

LEADER MITTERRAND'S TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION

1. THE PS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 5 THAT AT REQUEST OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES FRANCOIS MITTERRAND WILL POSTPONE HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION -- ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF FEBRUARY -- UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL. PS STAFF TELLS US THAT THE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO "ASSURE" A MEETING BETWEEN MITTERRAND AND BREZHNEV.

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2. COINCIDENTALLY, PAVLOV, ASSISTANT TO SOVIET

AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, TOLD EMBOFF THAT TIMING OF PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S VISIT TO MOSCOW ALSO STILL UNCERTAIN, ALTHOUGH IT WILL PROBABLY BE SOME TIME IN MARCH AS PLANNED. PAVLOV ATTRIBUTED SCHEDULING DELAYS DUE TO TECHNICALITIES, BUT WAS NOTICEABLY UNCONVINCING IN HIS VOLUNTEERED ASSERTION THAT BREZHNEV'S HEALTH WAS NOT A FACTOR.

3. COMMENT: KREMLIN DELAYS IN SCHEDULING FRENCH LEADERS RAISES QUESTION WHETHER MOSCOW IS ATTEMPTING TO PACE BREZHNEV'S PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS PRESUMED PUBLIC REEMERGENCE, OR WHETHER OTHER UNCERTAINTIES ARE STILL INVOLVED. IN ANY CASE IT IS UNCLEAR HOW POSTPONEMENT OF MITTERRAND'S MOSCOW TRIP MAY AFFECT HIS POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE US IN MARCH.
STONE

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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